Sl. No.	Name of the proposed section(s)	State Government	Status
10.	Daitari-Banspani	Orissa	Work is in progress.
11.	Villupuram-*Tiruchirappalli-Madurai*	Tamil Nadu	Work is in progress.
12.	Madurai-Tuticorin	Tamil Nadu	Under examination.
13.	Madurai-Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu	Under examination.
14.	Shoranur-Mangalore	Kerala	Under examination.

Construction of rail track from Madhubani to Sitamarhi

†1675. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that survey work of construction of rail-tracks from Madhubani to Sitamarhi and *via* Jaynagar to Laukha upto Mahadev Math under East-Central Railway has been completed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the construction work of this line would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, work of Sitamarhi-Nirmali new broad gauge rail line (188 km.) *via* Jaynagar, Laukha Bazar at a cost of Rs. 678.62 crore has been proposed in Budget 2008-09. Another survey of Madhubani-Sitamarhi-Bairgania (163 km) new broad gauge rail line is under progress. The preliminary work of Sitamarhi-Nirmali rail line would be taken up once Budget is passed by the Parliament.

Railway crossings

1676. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manned and unmanned railway crossings in the country, separately, State-wise and zone-wise;

(b) the number of railway accidents that have occurred during the last three years at such level crossings;

(c) whether many of these accidents have occurred due to the unmanned level crossings;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents and to convert unmanned level crossings to manned level crossings;

(e) whether it is proposed to entrust the unmanned level crossings to private sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith terms and references thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on 01.04.2007, there were 16,778 manned and 17,966 unmanned level crossings (Excluding 'D' Class cattle crossings and canal crossings) in the country. State-wise and Zone-wise number is given in the Statement (*see* below).

(b) The number of railway accidents that have occurred at level crossings during the last three years is as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Number of Accidents	
	Manned	unmanned
2004-05	5	65
2005-06	10	65
2006-07	7	72

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Accidents take place at unmanned level crossings due to failure of road users in terms of the provisions of Motor Vehicle Act, 1931. However, in order to prevent unmanned level crossing accidents, public awareness programmes and publicity campaigns are undertaken regularly for educating road users for observing safe practices while negotiating unmanned level crossings. Joint ambush checks with the involvement of civil authorities are also conducted. Level crossings, on reaching the laid down traffic volume criteria of manning, are also progressively manned. As a special measure to reduce the number of level crossings, Zonal Railways have been given power to consider and sanction 'Limited Use Subways' wherever technically feasible. Efforts are also being made to close down as many of unmanned level crossings as possible, suggesting their merger with another level crossing in the close vicinity.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise and zone-wise number of manned and unmanned level crossings

State	Number of manned level crossings	Number of unmanned level crossings	Zone	Number of manned level crossings	Number of unmanned level crossings
1	2	3	4	5	6
Assam	421	595	Central	928	503
Andhra Padesh	1248	1291	Eastern	912	379
Bihar	981	1089	Northern	2357	2011
Chhattisgarh	250	257	North Eastern	1036	1679
Delhi	56	02	Northeast Frontier	692	1097
Gujarat	1470	2688	Southern	1725	1257
Haryana	585	368	South Central	1241	1373
Himachal	39	55	South	419	964
Pradesh			Eastern		
Jammu and Kashmir	21	09	Western	1766	2806
Jharkhand	364	441	East Central	962	879

1	2	3	4	5	6
Karnataka	584	820	East Coast	394	906
Kerala	418	101	North Central	1020	646
Madhya Pradesh	1229	960	North Western	1381	1446
Maharashtra	1176	1051	South East Central	468	773
Manipur	01	0	South Western	617	913
Mizoram	0	0	West Central	860	334
Nagaland	02	0			
Orissa	316	850			
Punjab	775	865			
Rajasthan	1450	1487			
Tamil Nadu	1282	1170			
Tripura	01	16			
Uttar Pradesh	2808	2606			
Uttaranchal	120	113			
West Bengal	1155	1123			
Chandigarh	08	0			
Pondicherry	09	09			
Goa	09	0			

Conversion of trains into superfast

1677. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has converted many trains into superfast during last three years;

(b) if so, how many trains are converted into superfast during last three years alongwith the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether Government has converted some more trains into superfast during the current budget;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the facilities being given to the passengers after converting these trains into superfast including time duration before superfast and after superfast?